

CANBURY AND RIVERSIDE ASSOCIATION (CARA)

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2026

Date: 8 th October 2026	Location: Canbury Pavillion
Time: 7:00 PM (Doors opened 6:30 PM)	Chair: Kelly Page

1. Attendance and Apologies

Officers and Presenters Present:

- **Kelly Page** (Chair)
- **Charles Roscorla** (Treasurer & Membership)
- **Richard Mobbs** (Committee Member – Year Highlights Presenter)
- **Barbara Harrison** (Representative, Friends of Canbury Bandstand)
- **Blaine Tookey** (Newsletter Editor / Committee Member)
- **Clare Francis** (Committee Member)
- **Peter Higgins** (Committee Member)

Apologies for Absence Received:

- **John Parrish** (Committee Member)
- **Fiona Macdonald** (Member / Committee Nominee)
- **Mike & Wendy Seigel** (Members)

2. Welcome and Procedural Appointments

The Chair, **Kelly Page**, formally opened the meeting at 7:00 PM, extending a warm welcome to returning members, guests, and new residents. Apologies for absence were formally noted.

The Chair requested two volunteer tellers from the floor to assist with counting votes should any show of hands require formal verification. Two volunteer tellers raised their hands and were appointed.

3. Approval of Minutes of the Last AGM (16th October 2025)

The draft minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 16th October 2025 had been made available on attendees' seats and published on the CARA website prior to the meeting. No queries, amendments, or objections were raised.

RESOLUTION / OUTCOME: A vote was taken by a show of hands. The minutes of the 2025 AGM were APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. Treasurer's Report and Financial Accounts

Presented by **Charles Roscorla** (Treasurer & Membership).

Treasury Report Year 2025/2026

Charles noted that detailed financial information had been circulated in advance. He summarised that the Association remained in a sound financial position, with income continuing to be supported primarily by membership subscriptions of 210 fully paid members, operating expenditure lower than in the previous year, and a positive operating surplus recorded for 2025/2026.

Membership retention remained strong despite the subscription increase from £5 to £10 introduced two years earlier, and a growing proportion of members now pay by standing order. The Treasurer also confirmed that the Association continued to hold adequate reserves at the year end.

This led to a healthy surplus of £1,025 for the year with closing reserves of £5,645.

Reserve Allocations & Local Project Proposals

The Treasurer invited member suggestions for allocating reserves to benefit the local neighborhood. Potential initiatives discussed include:

- **North End Gate Improvements:** Contributing to physical security upgrades to prevent unauthorized vehicle access.
- **Riverbank Re-naturalisation Board:** Funding an educational/information plaque for the re-naturalization section of the riverbank highlighting riverbank ecology.

RESOLUTION / OUTCOME: The Treasurer's Report and Financial Accounts for 2025/2026 were APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. Highlights of the Year 2025/2026

Presented by **Richard Mobbs**.

Social Events and Community Representation

- **CARA Barbecue:** Held successfully two weeks prior to the AGM. Sincere thanks were expressed to Nic Lewishon for organizing, the Riverside Tennis Club for hosting, Bevans for meat supply, and the volunteer chefs and other helpers.
- **Local Network Links:** CARA actively promoted local interests through key organisations like:
 - **North Kingston Forum:** for advice and assistance with planning matters. Di Watling was thanked for her support.
 - **Police Panel:** Chaired by Jonathan Rollason. Members were reminded of panel advice: 'If you think it's a crime, report it,' as statistics help justify police resourcing.
 - **Canbury Gardens Working Group (CGWG):** Councillor Peter Higgins assumed the chair, succeeding James Manthel. This continues to serve as an effective mechanism for reporting problems and holding council officers to their commitments.

Environmental & Infrastructure Projects

- **Half Mile Tree & Bench:** Kingston Council replaced the tree with a substantial mature specimen and installed a new bench. Council funding proved sufficient, preserving CARA reserve funds.
- **Lower Ham Road Barrier:** Replaced the barrier near Bank Lane with two rain gardens containing four trees, while removing raised humps from cycle lanes.
- **Playground Refurbishment:** Following community feedback against original large-scale plans, the council abandoned initial proposals and is reviewing the size, style, and location.
- **Green Flag Award:** Canbury Gardens retained Green Flag status. Thanks extended to Kingston Council, contractors Glendale, and especially for all the volunteers particularly Len Cowking and Trevor Willis for their leadership.
- **Riverbank Renaturalisation Project:** Completed after 20 years of CARA advocacy alongside the Thames Landscape Strategy (TLS). Construction was funded by Kingston Council. Formally opened by HRH The Duke of Gloucester (TLS Patron), alongside Deputy Mayor Jane Lim, MP Sarah Olney, and Representative Deputy Lieutenant Father Martin Hislop.

Communications & Committee Transitions

- **eNews:** Monthly digital updates achieved an open rate of ~80% across ~270 subscribers.
- **CARA Printed Newsletter:** Print editions continue to be generously sponsored by Peter Greenwood (Greenwood Residential).
- **Editorial Transition:** Liz Poole stood down as editor and committee member to spend time away on her boat. Blaine Tookey joined the committee in January 2026 and has successfully assumed the newsletter editor role.

6. Friends of Canbury Bandstand (FoCB) Presentation

Presented by **Barbara Harrison** (Friends of Canbury Bandstand).

- **Historical Tribute:** Tribute paid to the late Michael Davidson (aged 94), Hon. Secretary for the original 1994 Bandstand appeal. The bandstand opened in July 1997. FoCB will celebrate the Bandstand's 30th anniversary in 2027.
- **2026 Concert Season Review:** Hosted 14 band concerts and 2 choir performances (Canbury Singers and Rock Choir) on Sunday afternoons (3–5 PM) from 17th May to 6th September 2026, with zero weather cancellations.
- **Performers & Guests:** Performances included Barnes Concert Band, jazz, saxophone, and wind groups, alongside youth ensembles from Kingston Music Service and Tiffin Swing Band. VIP attendees included Mayor Thay Thayalan and MP Sarah Olney.
- **Logistics & Equipment:** Two new heavy-duty chair trolley donated by CARA performed reliably. Bands operated under a self-marshalling model supported by keyholders at Canbury Secret Cafe and the Riverside Tennis Club.
- **Sponsorship Acknowledgments:** Sincere thanks expressed to CARA, Kingston Council, Canbury Secret, Greenwood Residential, The Boaters Inn, and DoubleTree by Hilton.

7. Election and Re-election of Committee Members

Chaired by **Kelly Page**.

Election of New Committee Member

Fiona Macdonald was nominated to join the CARA Committee.

Proposer: Richard Mobbs | **Seconder:** Peter Higgins

RESOLUTION / OUTCOME: Fiona Macdonald was ELECTED UNANIMOUSLY to the CARA Committee.

Re-election of Standing Committee Members

The following current committee members stood for re-election as a single block:

Kelly Page (Chair), Charles Roscorla (Treasurer), Richard Mobbs, Blaine Tookey, Peter Higgins, Clare Francis, and John Parrish.

Committee Membership Opportunities

The Committee expressed its wish to broaden its membership. CARA members were invited to attend a future Committee meeting to learn more about its work before deciding whether to join. Please contact any committee member if you are interested.

RESOLUTION / OUTCOME: The standing committee members were RE-ELECTED UNANIMOUSLY for the 2026/2027 term.

8. Any Other Business (AOB)

- **Richmond Community Resilience Fair:** On behalf of member Alan Pettitt, the Chair announced the Richmond Community Resilience Fair taking place on Saturday, 10th October 2026 (11:00 AM – 3:00 PM) at Richmond and Hillcroft Adult Community College.
- **Floor Business:** No further items of business were raised from the floor.

9. Formal Closure of the AGM

The Chair, **Kelly Page**, formally declared the business of the 2026 CARA Annual General Meeting closed at approximately 7:40 PM.

***Note:** Following the conclusion of formal AGM business, Councillor Peter Higgins delivered a guest presentation regarding his first five months in office.*